



PRL NEWSLETTER

jws

Beginning of a New Era in Mine Safety and Health

The new Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 mandated that all employees in the mining industry should receive safety and health training, both before they begin work with a new employer and a refresher training on an annual basis. The length and type of training varies with an individual's job assignment. This training may be given by state agencies, approved schools or by individual companies having an approved training program.

Plateau Resources has decided to do as much of our own training as we can. During the week of May 14 through the 17th we conducted our first training program. Twenty three employees attended and received 40 hours of New Miner Training. One employee received 8 hours of Newly Hired Experienced Miner Training.

Some of the subjects covered were roof and ground control, ventilation, electrical hazards, handling of explosives, first aid, radiation protection and the miners rights and responsibilities. In addition, Mr. Jack Oliphant, an MSHA Enforcement Officer, sat in on portions of the program and gave a short talk on MSHA's role in mine safety. Mr. Oliphant also answered questions from the class.

The instructors got as much out of the program as the students. We were fortunate in being able to give the first class to miners who had already been at Shootaring for several months. The enthusiastic class participation, suggestions and criticisms were appreciated and will help us plan the course content for future programs. The mules will be arriving in a few months, but in the meantime don't sit on your buzzy.

Welcome Aboard

In the Grand Junction office new employees are Andrew Esparza, Attorney; Audrey Akers, Office Clerk; Larry Walter, Reclamation Operator; Carol Craiglow, Richard Gubitosa, Michael LeBaron, Lowell Pierson, Andrew Raby, David Lawrence, and Suzanne Sexsmith, Graduate Geologists.

New employees at Shootaring are Jeri Snedeger, Food & Housing Helper; Emily Snedeger, Week End Cook; Larry Hale, Robert Ashburn and Paul Marconnett, Miners; Berwyn Pollock, Miner's Helper; Rod Carter, Mechanic C; Doug Pattillo, Underground Laborer; and Scott Cheever, Edward Day, Gregg Edwards, and Scott Laxton, Surface Laborers.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS

In the Grand Junction office there are several new assignments in the Accounting Department. Ray Weiser has been promoted from Graduate Accountant to Accountant. Juanice Daines has been promoted from Accounts Payable Coordinator to Graduate Account. Barbara Mancuso has been promoted to Senior Secretary. Also in Accounting, Chrisann Kelleher has taken a new assignment as Senior Office Clerk and Peggy DePriest has been promoted to Office Clerk.

VP'S CORNER

R. L. Heiks - Vice President & General Manager

In October, 1978, Plateau initiated a program to coordinate all reclamation and environmental licensing for the Exploration Department. The purpose of the program is to insure that exploration projects are properly permitted, licensed, and reclaimed in compliance with the myriad of rules and regulations promulgated by local, state and federal government agencies. Industrywide, the delays and expenses involved with the complex permitting and reclamation procedures have been increasing rapidly. All exploration projects require at least two permits, and some need up to five or six. The reclamation supervisor, district geologists and the Land Department work as a team to prepare the permits which are required prior to drilling on each project.

Upon completion of a drilling project, the surface disturbances, eg, roads and drill pads, are recontoured and reseeded by Plateau personnel or by private contractors. When reclaiming an area, major emphasis is placed on controlling erosion and returning the disturbed land to its original use and productivity. Reestablishment of vegetation is extremely difficult in arid regions, such as southeastern Utah, where average annual precipitation is only seven to ten inches. To reduce long-term reclamation costs, test plots are being installed at several locations in Utah to determine the most practical and economical means of revegetating sites.

Two employees are presently assigned to Reclamation. Fred Gerdeman, whose duties include licensing, compilation of environmental field data, liaison with government agencies and reclamation planning, is the Reclamation Supervisor. Larry Walter, Reclamation Equipment Operator, is in charge of reclamation field operations. Several temporary employees will be hired during the summer and fall to assist with revegetation; and private earthmoving contractors have been contracted to accomplish the recontouring.

B. O. Fisher - Vice President - Corporate

Paying the bills for a company growing like Plateau Resources Limited is a formidable task. Approximately 1200 bills or more a month are processed out of the Accounts Payable Department. Anywhere from \$30,000 to 1 million dollars is paid monthly to all of the various vendors that provide services for our Company. This area continues to grow as we proceed with our expansion of operations in exploration, mining and processing.

The Accounts Payable Department is an area which interfaces with many people both in and out of the Company. Their job is to verify invoices, prepare cash vouchers which record the charges on the books of the Company and forward all invoices with supporting documentation to the Finance Department for Payment.

WHAT DOES MY DADDY DO?

Because so many of our employees are new to the mining industry; we thought it would be interesting to find out what some of the different jobs in our Company are, who does them and how they do them. Our first article will take a look at the job of a miner.

In an interview with Kim Wilson, a miner at the Tony M mine, I asked him to explain to our employees what the duties of a miner are. He said the first requirement was to have experience working underground. A miner must know all of the safety rules and regulations and adhere to them. Becoming a miner means becoming responsible for all actions and activities in your work location. A miner must know who is on his crew and what each of them is doing during the work shift.

The miner's work location is either the main drift or a lateral. The main drift is the passageway through the mine. Laterals are passageways off to the right or left of the main drift.

Once the miner has reached the work location, either by walking or riding a buggy, he checks the face, back (overhead) and ribs (sides) for the stability of the rock. He must also check for any explosives that may not have been detonated from previous blasting. If the rock appears to be soft or very loose he must install some type of support system to hold the rock from falling or breaking during drilling.

The miner is now ready to set up his drilling machine. One type of drill that is used is a Gardner-Denver 83 Rock Drill. This drill weighs approximately 180 pounds and is supported by only one leg. A drill of this type can drill from 6 to 10 feet into the rock. Each hole drilled is $5/8$ inch in diameter.

Once all of the equipment is in place, the miner is ready to start drilling a round. A round is a series of 21 holes in the face of the mine that will be systematically loaded with dynamite. After the round is completed the miner breaks down his machine and moves on to the next work location.

The miner's helper then loads the round with dynamite, which has an electric cap inserted into the end of it. A substance called prell is then used to fill the remainder of the hole. Prell is a highly explosive substance that is less expensive than dynamite. After the holes are loaded, they are wired together to create an electrical circuit. The ends of the electrical wire are shunted together, ie, twisted together, to prevent premature blasting.

By noon, and again at quitting time, three series of rounds have been set. Blasting the rounds is done only at these times. The concussion from each blast is strong enough to topple the hard hat off of your head at a considerable distance from the blast. The dust and smoke from the blast pushes from the face into the main drift where it is ventilated through exhaust drifts.

A miner usually advances 6 laterals a minimum of 6 feet each day. That means approximately 36 feet of mining is done during a 10 hour shift per miner. Now how's that for progress!

This job is a highly respected position in the mining industry. It takes a very particular type of person to handle the responsibility of being a miner. The men that work in this job are very deserving of our respect and admiration.

ALAS, SUMMER

Summer is finally here and everyone is glad to be outdoors. Summer is a carefree time of the year; relaxing, camping, swimming, enjoying the weather. Accidents are more likely to occur during a time when people are kicked-back. Peter Tooker, Safety Director, has a few ideas that could help prevent some summer accidents.

1. Whenever you plan to take off on a camping or four-wheel drive trip it's a good idea to let someone know where you're going and when you anticipate being back.
2. When planning a hiking trip, backpacking trip or even just an all day outing in the desert make sure you have plenty of water. A good rule of thumb for your camping trips in the desert is a minimum of one gallon per day per person.
3. When doing any rock climbing or rock scrambling in the desert it's good to remember that these sedimentary rocks are fairly fragile. Always check your next handhold or foothold to make sure it will support your weight before you commit yourself to it. Remember the rule of threes. Maintain three good points of contact at all times. For example, try to have two good footholds and one good handhold while you're searching for your next move. Or two good handholds and a good foothold before moving your foot to the next position.
4. Remember that the tallis slopes in this country usually have a lot of loose rocks. Be careful when you're going up or down them that you don't dislodge a rock or let one roll out from underneath you.
5. This can be snake country. Keep your eyes open and don't put your hands or feet in places where you can't see, particularly if they are shady places.
6. Bare feet are not a good idea around summer campfires. It's very easy to step on some stray hot coals and get very badly burned.
7. Do not dive or jump off any ledges into a lake unless you have checked the depth of the water.
8. When water skiing wear a floatation belt or jacket.
9. When jumping or diving into a lake make sure there are no rocks beneath you that you could hit before even hitting the water.
10. Be careful around power lawn mowing equipment. Do not mow the lawn in bare feet.
11. When camping out, it's a good idea not to unroll the sleeping bag until ready to go to bed. This way you can be sure that you're the first critter to crawl into it. *I have a cold bed - No Left!*
12. You can very easily run into some scorpions in the desert in the summer. The ones in this area are not considered poisonous unless someone is allergic to them much as people are allergic to bee stings. If you are bitten, apply ice to the bite and leave it on until the sting goes away.
13. Even mild dehydration can be very uncomfortable during the summer months. It's very easy to get into this condition when partying in the desert. When you find you have a headache after a day in the sun and drinking beer you are probably suffering from dehydration. If you don't correct this condition it could become very serious. Remember that alcohol dehydrates the body by itself. When combined with the hot sun, you are doubling the problem. Make sure you put plenty of water into your system and it's even a good idea to eat a banana or some other source of potassium.

by definition! →



TICABOO NEWS NOTES

Construction

We have completed approximately 20% of the construction with a crew of 30 men. Cool, fresh desert water is being pumped from the well. We have sidewalks all along Ticaboo Drive and some patios and sidewalks in the mobile home area. Roughly 3500 feet of sewer pipe has been laid. The excavation for the water tank is about 70% complete. We had our first dynamite blast this month when a contractor blasted a hard sandstone ridge above the sewer lagoon. Work on the roads is continuing with the water system due to start later this month. The telephone system has been designed and cable is on the job ready for installation. At this time the development is continuing on schedule.

Medical

On May 17 and 18, a two day medical conference was held in Bicknell, Utah, for the purpose of establishing medical facilities in Ticaboo. Various medical and governmental officials were present to assist Ticaboo in the planning for a medical clinic. Al Scott, Dana Perry, Deverne and Laverna Dickerson were representing Plateau Resources at the conference which produced some very solid plans for medical facilities in Ticaboo. A Medical Advisory Board will be established representing Ticaboo, Bullfrog and the Park Service to deal with the needs of the area. Plans for minor as well as major emergency medical needs will be proposed for implementation. All agreed that the conference provided a worthwhile first step in dealing with the medical needs of Ticaboo and the surrounding area.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is the dress code for Plateau Resources. Realizing that we have other locations, I would like to know what attire is appropriate for each.

CNConn, GJ

Briefly stated, Plateau Resources does not have a dress code for its employees. We assume maturity in our employees and believe in their ability to recognize the type of dress required for particular assignments.

A given individual may well dress quite differently, dependent on the location in which his or her work may be on a given day.

Recognize that although there is no Company dress code, a given department or supervisor may direct certain standards of dress appropriate to the safe, efficient and business-like conduct of that department.

ADScott, Personnel Director

I work at Shootaring Canyon and would like to be informed of promotional opportunities at this location. How does an employee find out about promotions and how can I gain the necessary experience to get promoted?

It is the Company's stated intention to promote from within whenever qualified employees are available.

Promotions are first made available to qualified individuals within the work unit where the vacancy exists. If the job cannot be filled in this manner, it is posted on the bulletin board and any interested employee at the work location may submit a Request for Transfer to the job. The appropriate department head then considers all applicants and if possible, selects the senior qualified applicant.

In general, we feel an individual will gain experience necessary for promotion by working their way up the ladder in a work unit.

In the future we hope to be able to offer vocational training programs in many skills associated with our work.

Recognize that for reasons of safety and efficiency we cannot put untrained employees on many of the jobs at the mine. If we did it would create a serious hazard to the employee, their fellow workers and the equipment.

Employees interested in being trained in a particular job should discuss their desire with their supervisor. Many times an employee can be utilized on a job to fill in for sickness or vacation and thereby gain a better insight to the job.

For more specific information about promotion and transfer you should ask your supervisor for a copy of the Company's policy on this subject.

ADScott, Personnel Director

Is your Company going to purchase uranium ore from independent miners or just use ore from your Company properties?

Jesse Ekker, J&R Mining, Hanksville, Utah

Plateau is presently purchasing uranium ores in southeastern Utah. Due to the long haul from Hanksville to our Blanding Ore Buying Station and our plans to construct a processing facility near Shootaring Canyon, we have not been extremely aggressive in ore purchasing in the Henry Mountain area. When we complete the Shootaring Canyon facility we will have the capability to accurately weigh, sample and assay, and will become a much more active ore purchaser in the Henry Mountain area.

✓ RBSewell, Manager of Operations.

Service Anniversaries

June - 1 Year

Brent Cook, SC, 6-5-78
Juanice Daines, GJ, 6-8-78
Earle McEwen, GJ, 6-16-78
Julie Block, GJ, 6-29-78
Kenneth Brown, SC, 6-2-78
Karen Fisher, SC, 6-12-78
Shirley Follett, GJ, 6-7-78
Lynn Michels, GJ, 6-9-78
Kent Lewis, SC, 6-21-78

June - 2 Years

✓ Ellis Cook, SC, 6-20-77
Jim Cooper, GJ, 6-20-77
Lonnie Sale, GJ, 6-20-77
Lenn Pacheco, GJ, 6-20-77

June - 3 Years

Devern Dickerson, SC, 6-21-76

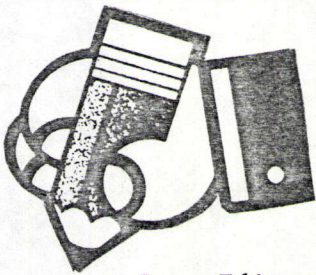
June - 13 Years

✓ Ron Heiks, GJ, 6-23-66. This is Ron's total service with Consumers Power Company and Plateau Resources.

ETC. . .

- * Congratulations to Elaine and Vance Morrill who recently completed and passed the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) training course in Richfield. Also to David Peterson who has received recertification as an EMT.
- * Arbie and Pat Diffie are now at their new address in Executive Row in Shootaring Canyon.
- * Mr. Mike Sewell and Mr. Al Scott attended a meeting in Shootaring Canyon to discuss the future move to the Ticaboo Townsite.
- * All employees of Plateau Resources Limited express their sympathy to Arlene and Larry Campbell in the loss of her father.
- * Everyone in Blanding wishes a speedy recovery to David Pehrson, Moisture Prep Technician, who has been hospitalized in Monticello.
- * Congratulations to Helen Chapman. She has a new granddaughter, Arielle Marie, born May 17.
- * Lonnie Sale, GJ, has a 23" 1976, Montgomery Ward Console Color TV for sale for \$200.00. Contact Lonnie in GJ on extension 284.
- * Vicki Questar, GJ, has several books, some college books, she would like to sell. The titles are: Speech: A Text With Adapted Readings; Exploration in Speech Communication; Dream Telepathy; The Reivers; Dragon Magic; Ideas & Men, The Sioux Spaceman; and From Aristotle to Plotinus. Vicki can be reached on extension 220.

☆ SPEAKEASY ☆



Dear Editor:

Mail To: NEWSLETTER
Personnel Department
772 Horizon Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81501